

# Local Racing Report: Tri-County

By Blake Lynch  
Staff Writer  
North Georgia News

**Brasstown, NC** - Tri-County Racetrack hosted racing action this past Friday night with a full program and the KMSA Pony Series. Here is the top five from each division.

**KSMA Pony** - Taking the checkered flag was No. 10 Caylan Kettle. Finishing second was No. 39 Tim Ladd. Coming in third was No. 47 JJ Garrett. Finishing in fourth was No. 5-1 John Smart and rounding up the top five was No. 01 Austin Paxley.

**Street Stock** - No. 21 Troy Turner took home the

checked flag. Coming in second was No. 14 Charles Devine Jr. Finishing in third was No. 95 Alex Vance. Finishing in fourth was No. 12 Roger Beaver and in fifth was No. 01 Jacob Lynch.

**Modified Street** - Coming in first was No. 37 Michael Barnett. Taking home second was No. 88 Ricky Smith. Finishing in third No. 4 Jacob Paris. Placing fourth was No. 81 John Howard. Coming in fifth was No. 45 Brandon Elliott.

**Beginner 602** - Coming in first was No. 25 Matt Lockaby. In second was No. 03 Dante Curtis and third was No. 55 Brad Sosebee. Finishing in fourth was No. 22 Tucker

Anderson while fifth went to No. k3 James Klauke.

**Crate/Limited** - Coming in first was No. 7 Jason Deal. Finishing in second was No. 12w Daniel Wilson. Taking third was No. 108 Chuck Southern. Coming in fourth was No. 9 Brian Kinnersley and fifth was No. 30 Devin Dilbeck.

**FWD** - Coming in first was No. 19r Sean Rice. Right behind was No. 10 Blake Lynch in second. Coming in third was No. 192r Robby Lynch. Fourth was No. c3 Matt Cordin and fifth went to No. 401 Brent Lynch.

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the potential to be, you must be prepared to put in the work. Your mindset has to be: I want this. I want it bad.

As a lineman, you have to think, I need to protect my running back, Jonah Daniel, and I got to protect that quarterback, Logan Helcher. I have to protect them at all costs because they are the key to this season.

**NGN:** As for your college signing, do you mind telling me how you made your way onto Emory & Henry's radar?

**WH:** We have a family friend that went to college there, and he's told us about them since I was a freshman. He's in their hall of fame and he coached there for a while, but we didn't really pay a lot of attention to them.

About a month ago, we were going up there to visit another school in the area and he called us. He told us to forget the other school and visit Emory & Henry. We took his advice, went up there, and met the coach (Curt Newsome), who is a great guy.

He coached (offensive line) at Virginia Tech and won

two or three ACC Championships. He also won a National Championship at James Madison. He's a great coach, it was a really great atmosphere, the campus is beautiful and it's just a great place. It felt more like home than anywhere else. I talked to a lot of coaches at different levels, but I felt like this was the best option.

**NGN:** What stood out the most to you about the school? Was there one major selling point that hooked you?

**WH:** You could tell it was just a great college atmosphere. It's a really small school with smaller class sizes, and that's what I'm used to at Union County.

**NGN:** What other schools did you consider?

**WH:** I spoke with Greensboro College. My first offer was from Culver-Stockton in Missouri. I had Hendrix College in Arkansas, Millsaps College in Mississippi, LaGrange and a few more. There were a few prep schools and junior colleges in there too.

**NGN:** How's your recovery coming along?

**WH:** I haven't been completely cleared but I'm pretty much able to do whatever I want, except for a few things. I should be cleared within the next month or month-and-a-half. The conditioning will be the main thing. I'm trying to drop a little weight that I gained from sitting around with a knee injury.

**NGN:** What are your expectations for your freshman season? Is that something you've discussed with the coach?

**WH:** I've talked to him and he said that it's up to me and how much I'm willing to work. I'm willing to put in as much work as I need to be able to play next year. I plan on working my butt off.

**NGN:** Is there anyone that you want to mention or thank?

**WH:** All the coaches, especially Coach Hodges. He helped me out so much this year. I want to thank my parents, friends and family that encouraged me to continue playing at the next level.



The green flag drops in the Street Stock race. Photo/Blake Lynch

# NASCAR 2020

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

## Haley Gets First Xfinity Win

TALLADEGA, AL - Justin Haley won Saturday's Xfinity Series race at Talladega in a three lap shootout for his first series victory. He took the lead in turn four of the final lap to finish 0.299 seconds ahead of teammate Ross Chastain.

"First of all I want to dedicate the win to Nick Harrison and the Harrison family, he started this journey with me last year in my rookie year, losing him was pretty big," Haley said, referring to his former crew chief who died unexpectedly last year. "This is an incredible day. Emotionally, I'm fighting for a ride, fighting for the next time I get in a race car next year. Anytime you can win definitely helps."

Haley, along with teammates Ross Chastain and A.J. Allmendinger were helped by a timely caution. The trio, along with Richard Childress Racing driver Anthony Alfredo ducked onto pit road just before an accident in the tri oval. The three drivers completed their service and assumed the top positions on the restart with 32 laps to go.

Back on the track, they found themselves running nose to tail on the outside line on the final lap. A push by Allmendinger helped Chastain push the 21-year-old into the lead on the backstretch. Haley cleared Jeb Burton and cruised to his first official Xfinity Series victory.

Chastain earned the \$100,000 Xfinity Dash 4 Cash bonus for being the highest finisher among the four drivers vying for the bonus at Talladega.

"The almighty dollar still wins in the world, so it'll go a long way," Chastain said. "It doesn't all go to me. No driver gets all of it. Don't let anybody fool you. But everybody gets bonuses on the team. It helps the whole program. It makes the bad days a little easier."

Jeb Burton was third, followed by Austin Cindric, Brett Moffitt, Anthony Alfredo, AJ Allmendinger, Gary Gaulding, Alex Labbe, and Noah Gragson.

Top-10 leaders: 1. Gragson-469, 2. Briscoe-454, 3. Cindric-426, 4. Chastain-422, 5. H. Burton-399, 6. Haley-385, 7. B. Jones-375, 8. Allgaier-337, 9. Annett-296, 10. Sieg-273.

### 2021 HALL OF FAME CLASS ANNOUNCED

Dale Earnhardt Jr., Mike Stefanik and Red Farmer will be inducted into the 2021 NASCAR Hall of Fame.

The three-member class was the first elected under new voting rules, with nominees divided into Modern Era and Pioneer Era groups. Two were chosen from a field of 10 Modern Era nominees, and one was selected from a group of five on the Pioneer Era ballot for legends whose careers began more than 60 years ago.

Earnhardt led all nominees with 76 percent of the vote, winning induction on his first year on the ballot.

His sincerity in addressing the media immediately after the selections were announced was indicative of the way he conducted his career. He insisted with a smile that he was more nervous Tuesday after a morning root canal at his dentist than waiting for the results of the NASCAR Hall of Fame voting.

"When that list of nominees came out I was so honored to be on that sheet," Earnhardt said. "I couldn't believe my name was on that sheet to be honest with you. I know those guys and their body of work."

"It was good with just being on the sheet and was going to be happy with that. It's such a great feeling that someone feels like I made an impact on the sport."



Haley Gets First Xfinity Win

in his two full seasons (1998-1999) in the NASCAR Xfinity Series, Earnhardt quickly established himself at the NASCAR Cup Series level as a master in the style of restrictor plate racing featured at both Daytona International Speedway and its superspeedway sister in Talladega, Ala. Earnhardt won 10 races at the two tracks - four at Daytona and six at Talladega.

His two Daytona 500 wins were in 2004 and 2014. He won four consecutive races at Talladega from 2001-03 - a streak of excellence unequalled since. He led 133 of 188 laps to win the April, 2002 race. Only one time since has the race winner led 100 laps at Talladega - Jeff Gordon led 139 laps en route to a 2005 victory.

Stefanik, a nine-time champion in Modified and Busch North (now ARCA East) competition, was the other Modern Era selection, appearing on 49 percent of the ballots.

Farmer, a founding member of the Alabama Gang and a four-time regional champion in NASCAR's early days, topped the Pioneer Era list with 71 percent of the vote.

### ALL-STAR RACE MOVES TO BRISTOL

The NASCAR All-Star Race will move from Charlotte Motor Speedway to Bristol Motor Speedway, for the first time, and fans will be allowed to attend the July 15 race.

"While Charlotte will always be recognized as the birthplace and traditional home for the All-Star Race, the current data surrounding the pandemic in North Carolina makes Bristol a better option for fan access this summer," said Speedway Motorsports President and CEO Marcus Smith.

"Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Sullivan County officials have allowed for up to 30,000 fans at the All-Star Race in Bristol. We're grateful for the continued support from both governors and all the state and local officials as we work with NASCAR to bring fans back to live sporting events."

This year's event marks just the second time it has been run at a facility other than Charlotte Motor Speedway. Atlanta Motor Speedway hosted the event in 1986.

To be eligible to compete in

the All-Star Race, full-time drivers must have: won a 2019 or 2020 Cup Series race; won a previous All-Star Race; or be a former Cup Series champion. Drivers currently eligible include: Ryan Blaney, Alex Bowman, Kurt Busch, Kyle Busch, Chase Elliott, Justin Haley, Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Jimmie Johnson, Erik Jones, Matt Kenseth, Brad Keselowski, Joey Logano, Ryan Newman and Martin Truex Jr.

The final four spots in the All-Star Race field will be reserved for the two stage winners and race winner from the All-Star Open as well as the winner of the All-Star Fan Vote.

**Racing Joke:** During the recent NASCAR racing shutdown, Kurt and his wife went to a "Dude Ranch" in Texas. The cowboy preparing the horses asked if she wanted a Western or English saddle, and she asked what the difference was.

When he told her one had a horn and one didn't, she replied, "The one without the horn is fine. I don't expect we will run into too much traffic."

**Weekend Racing:** NASCAR teams will be at the 2.5-mile Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, PA this weekend for four races.

Sat., June 27; Truck Series race; Starting time: 12:30 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., June 27; Cup Series race; Starting time: 3:30 PM ET; TV: Fox.

Sun., June 28; Xfinity Series race; Starting time: 12:30 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., June 28; Cup Series race; Starting time: 4 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Red Farmer has always been dubbed as part of the Alabama Gang, but is he a native Alabamian?

**Last Week's Question:** What is the name of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s race team? Answer: JR Motorsports.

Gerald Hodges is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. His books may be viewed and ordered online at Amazon.com. You may contact him by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.

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will help you adapt to a new system in college?

**KM:** Each coach had their own unique style, so I definitely think that will help me adjust to any new coach that I come into contact with in the future.

**NGN:** You mentioned travel ball, how much of a role did that play in helping you become the player you are today?

**KM:** Just leaving the

area and playing against better competition and seeing all those great players definitely helped. You may lose to those players when you play them, but in the end, it still makes you better.

**NGN:** Have you decided on a major?

**KM:** I'm majoring in Biology and hope to become a physical therapist.

**NGN:** Is there anyone you would like to thank or give

a shout-out too?

**KM:** I want to thank my travel ball coach Nan Bishop. I also want to thank my brothers and my grandparents for always pushing me. A special thanks go to my mom and dad because none of this would be possible without them. I also want to thank Coach (Crystal) Beach, Coach (Corey) Garrett and all of my coaches over the years.



Kait McCarter and family hosted a college signing at home in March

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You have to really stay on top of things when it comes to student-athlete safety.

**NGN:** The recreation department is also witnessing this growth, and in many cases, they see it first. How important is it for the schools to assist with those feeder programs, as well as being involved with community outreach programs that include local businesses and colleges?

**MH:** I would like for us to be more involved with

community outreach once I get started and get my feet wet. We're already very engaged with the rec department. They're super to work with because they always go above and beyond. As things evolve, I would like to reach out to more people like Young Harris College and try to create as much local involvement as possible.

**NGN:** Speaking directly to the community, is there anything you would like to say or let them know about yourself?

**MH:** I want everyone to know that I am very honored to have this job, and I want to thank the Union County administration for giving me this leadership opportunity.

What really helped make this possible was all of the teachers that taught with me through the years and helped out (the athletic program) whenever needed. Without their support, their guidance or their leadership, I would not be where I am today.

# The Old Union Women's Golf Association Leagues First Annual Flag Day Tournament

The Old Union Women's Golf Association league had a fun filled day planned on Monday, June 15, with our first Annual Flag Day tournament with 26 ladies signed up to play. Unfortunately, the threat of rain forced us to postpone the event. We had nine brave women who decided to come and play anyway. It ended up being a beautiful day and many of our ladies joined us at Old Union for lunch and fellowship.

Our Flag Day tournament took place on Monday, June 22. Each player received an American Flag with their name and allotted strokes based upon their handicap. Once players reached their allotted strokes, they planted their "Old Glory" flag in the fairway! The pro shop set up a tent to award prizes.

Unfortunately hole #10 has been dangerous hole for two of our ladies, who took a tumble two weeks apart from each other which resulted in identical injuries (see picture). Wishing both Cynthia and Jane a speedy and full recovery.

We welcomed two new members to our league, Jackie DiChiara and Betsy Hyde bringing our membership to 42 ladies. Several fun tournaments are planned for this season including, Member/Member (2 week round), Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Club Champion and of course the remaining Match Play tournaments for the remaining season.



Cynthia and Jane

Starting May 27th, Mary Holmes will be offering Golf Clinics at Old Union Golf Course. The cost is \$20 plus range ball. Max number in a group is four and the clinics are an hour long. Mary will have two classes... the first one at 9 AM and a second clinic at 10 AM. You must sign up on the website to participate in the clinic. Mary Holmes was the ladies' golf coach at LSU, and we are delighted with her offer to lead the Golf Clinics. Sign

up soon as the classes will fill up quickly!

Our ladies league would like to thank another member of Old Union Golf Course, Benny Partin, for his generous donation of a dozen ladies golf balls to our league.

If you are interested and would like to come as a Guest, or for more information, visit our website at www.OUWGA.com or call/text Karen at 352-638-3649 or Cynthia at 706-633-7587.



## Trout stocking sites week of June 15-19, 2020

Fannin: Big Creek, Hemptown Creek, Hot House Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam)

Lumpkin: Etowah River and Niblewill Creek

Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. Stay up-to-date with stocking and events through Facebook [www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh](http://www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh). The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state.